

19. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said sealing is accomplished with heat.

20. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said solid support material has a higher avidity for said cells than for said enclosure.

21. (new) The method of Claim 20, wherein said solid support material is treated with a hydroxide solution.

22. (new) The method of Claim 21, wherein said hydroxide solution comprises sodium hydroxide.

REMARKS

The Examiner has made a restriction requirement, restricting the Claims into two groups, with Group I comprising Claims 1-7 and 10-12 and Group II comprising Claim 8-9. Applicant disagrees with this restriction. Nonetheless, in the interests of furthering business interests, Applicant hereby elects the Claims in Group I, with traverse, while reserving the right to prosecute the cancelled claims (or similar claims) in the future.

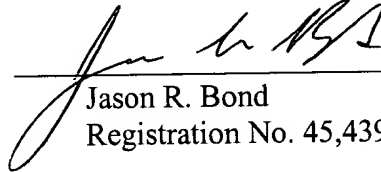
Applicant has also amended Claims 1-7 and 10-12, and added new Claims 13-22. As such, Claims 1-7 and 10-22 are currently pending (See Appendix II).

Finally, Applicant has submitted a Substitute Specification in accordance with 37 CFR 1.125(b) (Tab A). A marked up version of the Substitute Specification is also submitted (Tab B). A Substitute Specification is provided in order to correct a number of typographical errors, such as the lack of line numbering (paragraph numbering has now been provided), the presence of an incorrect attorney docket number at the top of every page except for page one, and to correct certain spacing gaps. A Substitute Specification is also submitted such that the originally filed claims may be placed in paragraph form and inserted into the Summary of the Invention. As the originally filed Claims are part of the Specification, amending the Summary of the Invention in this fashion does not introduce any new matter.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this Application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at 608-218-6900.

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APPENDIX I
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 8-9 have been deleted.

Claims 1-7 and 10-12 have been amended as follows:

1. A method [for preparing an article comprising viable cells on an insoluble support] comprising:
 - a) providing an enclosure that is permeable to solutes;
 - b) introducing into [the] said enclosure [an insoluble] solid support material and sealing [the] said enclosure; and
 - c) introducing [viable] cells into [the] said enclosure whereby [the] said cells attach to [the] said solid [insoluble] support material.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein [the] said introducing comprises injecting said cells [are injected] into [the] said enclosure.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein [the] said enclosure comprises [a] mesh material and [the injection] said injecting is performed through [the] said mesh material.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein [the] said enclosure comprises a septum and [the injection] said injecting is performed through [the] said septum.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising freezing [the] said enclosure containing [the] said [viable] cells.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising thawing [the] said enclosure containing [the] said [viable] cells to generate a thawed enclosure, and maintaining [the] said thawed enclosure in a tissue culture medium.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising testing the viability of [the] said cells by staining [the] said cells with a fluorescent dye [that fluoresces upon binding of calcium and with a dye that fluoresces upon intercalation into DNA, then measuring the ratio of fluorescence of the calcium staining dye to the fluorescence of the DNA intercalating dye].

10. A method [for preparing an article comprising viable cells on an insoluble support] comprising:

- a) providing an enclosure that is permeable to solutes [and to cells];
- b) introducing into [the] said enclosure [an insoluble] solid support material [having attached thereto a plurality of viable cells] and;
- c) immersing [the] said enclosure containing [the] said solid support material into a culture of viable cells, whereby [the] said viable cells migrate into [the] said enclosure and attach to [the] said solid support material.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising removing [the] said enclosure from [the] said culture and freezing [the article] said enclosure.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein [the] said solid support material is treated with a hydroxide solution prior to introducing [the] said solid support material into [the] said enclosure.